

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06
OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 EUR-12 /110 W
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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2547
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 8752

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EINV, ENRG, PFOR, EC
SUBJECT: SEVILLA VAGUE ON DISPOSITION OF GULF'S CRUDE AFTER
DECEMBER 31

REF QUITO 8739

1. LOCAL GULF MANAGER JACK O'BRIEN TOLD EMBOFF DECEMBER 16 THAT HE HAD SPOKEN TO MINISTER OF FINANCES SANTIAGO SEVILLA THAT MORNING AND HAD RECEIVED MUCH THE SAME INFORMATION REPORTED IN REFTEL. O'BRIEN, HOWEVER, ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE GOE'S ASSURANCE THAT GULF COULD CONTINUE LIFTING ITS SHARE OF THE CRUDE (AND MEETING ITS SHARE OF THE OPERATING COSTS) AFTER DECEMBER 31. SEVILLA REPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT GIVE GULF HIS PERSONAL ASSURANCE, ALTHOUGH HE PERSONALLY FELT THAT GULF SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO SHIP AND FELT THERE WOULD BE LITTLE DIFFICULTY IN CONVINCING HIS SUPERIORS TO ALLOW GULF'S CONTINUED LIFTINGS.

2. SEVILLA ASKEQ O'BRIEN FORMALLY REQUEST PERMISSION TO CONTINUE LIFTINGS AFTER DECEMBER 31. SEVILLA SAID HE WOULD THEN RELAY THE REQUEST TO GENERAL DURAN, WHO, ACCORDING TO CONFIDENTIAL

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SEVILLA, WOULD HAVE THE FINAL SAY IN THE MATTER. SEVILLA ALSO IMPLIED THAT HE ANTICIPATED A LOUD PROTEST FROM THE LEFT WHEN THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH GULF HAD NOT BEEN CONCLUDED, AND HE CAUTIONED GULF NOT TO BRING IN ANY TANKERS DURING THE FIRST WEEK IN JANUARY (TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION). O'BRIEN TOLD EMBOFF THAT GULF COULD CERTAINLY

AVOID SHIPMENTS SINCE WORLDWIDE STOCKS ARE NOW VERY HIGH
DUE TO ABNORMALLY HIGH LIFTINGS TO BEAT THE OPEC PRICE RISE.

3. AMBASSADOR PLANS TO DISCUSS SITUATION WITH GENERAL DURAN AFTER
GULF HAS PRESENTED ITS REQUEST TO CONTINUE LIFTINGS.
BLOOMFIELD

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Message Attributes

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